



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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### **Nez Perce Water Agreement Meeting Scheduled In New Meadows**

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A public meeting will be held Dec. 1 in New Meadows to discuss the Nez Perce Water Agreement and how it relates to the Little Salmon River basin. The meeting will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Senior Citizen Center, 120 N. Commercial St.

The Nez Perce Water Agreement settles about 150 water rights claims the tribe filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA). As part of the agreement, minimum stream flows and improved habitat for fish will be developed for at least four streams in the Little Salmon River basin. The Little Salmon River, Boulder, Hazard and Elk Creeks are on the list of streams that will be discussed by fisheries, hydrology and other experts. The agreement says that local citizens must be consulted about proposed actions on these streams.

The meeting will open with a summary presentation of the agreement and how it relates to the Little Salmon River basin. Representatives of the parties to the agreement – the Nez Perce Tribe, the State of Idaho and the U.S. Department of the Interior – will be present at the meeting to answer questions.

Following the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to look at maps of the basin and ask questions and make suggestions in an informal workshop.

The Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), which will hold minimum flow water rights once they are approved, is hosting the meeting. IWRB minimum flow rights are always subordinate to existing prior uses.

More information about the Nez Perce Water Agreement is on the website of the Idaho Department of Water Resources ([www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)).

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